

## CLAIMS:

1. A clothing article worn by miners for attaching apparatus with increased availability and better weight distribution which comprises at least one front portion and at least one rear portion separate from but attachable to the at least one front portion, and at least one attachment means for the releasable attachment of equipment located on at least one of the portions.
2. A clothing article according to claim 1 wherein the clothing article is a mining vest.
3. A clothing article according to claim 1, further comprising a belt wherein the belt is releasably attached to a lower portion of the clothing article to provide additional support for equipment attached to either the belt or the front or rear portions.
4. A clothing article as claimed in claim 3 wherein the at least one attachment means is associated with the clothing article for the releasable attachment of equipment, the attachment means comprising a locking portion, the locking portion having a bore, and a resilient spring plate which is removably located in the bore, the spring plate having a shoulder portion to abut the locking portion when in the bore, an angled portion to bias the spring plate and a locking rebate movable between a first locked position where the locking rebate abuts a lower edge of the bore to lock the spring plate in place within the bore, and a second released position where the locking rebate is free from the lower edge of the bore, one of the locking portion or the spring plate attached to the clothing article and the other attached to the equipment to allow releasable attachment of the equipment to the clothing article.
5. A clothing article according to claim 4 wherein the attachment means comprises a locking portion, the locking portion having a bore, and a resilient spring plate attached to the equipment for use by the user which is removably located in the bore, the spring plate having a shoulder portion to abut the locking portion when in the bore, an angled portion to bias the spring plate and a locking rebate movable between a first locked position where the locking rebate abuts a lower edge of the bore to lock the spring plate in place within the bore, and a second released position where the locking rebate is

the bore to lock the spring plate in place within the bore, and a second released position where the locking rebate is free from the lower edge of the bore.

6. A clothing article according to claim 1 wherein the clothing article  
5 comprises three portions, a back portion and two separate side portions releasably attachable to the back portion.

7. A clothing article according to claim 6 further comprising a belt  
wherein the belt is releasably attached to a lower section of the back portion and the belt includes a lumbar support belt which is adapted to be wrapped  
10 about a wearer's lower torso.

8. A clothing article according to claim 7 wherein at least one  
portion of the lumbar support belt includes at least one attachment means to attach the side portions of the clothing article to the back portion of the clothing article to provide a size adjustable clothing article.

9. A clothing article according to claim 3 further comprising a safety  
15 harness releasably attachable to one or more harness straps associated with the clothing article and/or the belt.

10. A clothing article according to claim 1 further comprising a  
"camel back™" water storage or hydration system associated a portion of the  
20 clothing article.